

**New Hampshire Racing & Charitable Gaming Commission
Bingo/Lucky 7 Workshop**

August 2, 2013

Commissioner Lynn M. Presby, Chairing

Commissioner Presby opened the workshop at 9:30 a.m. welcoming all attendees.

Director Kelley handed out a memo addressing the change in policy regarding game pattern changes, effective immediately. No prior approval is needed to change game pattern selections; the change only needs to be submitted as part of the financial reports. The list of approved game patterns can be found on the RCGC website. Posted house rules also need to reflect that pattern changes may occur. (Prior approval is still needed for changes to actual number of games played, prize payouts, carryover coverall, winner take alls, door prizes, free plays, date, time etc.)

The question arose as to whether prior approval is needed to run special games with bigger payouts? Discussion ensued. Director Kelley will work with staff to determine what pitfalls, if any, could be encountered if this policy requiring prior approval is changed. He will report back with his findings at the next meeting.

The following related agenda items were discussed simultaneously:

Agenda Item #1: How many individual games of bingo must be played to constitute a bingo “schedule”?

Agenda Item #2: How long, time-wise, can a bingo event last? (Example: can one game start at 11:00 a.m., then wait the duration of the day and offer one additional game at 11:00 p.m.?) Can lucky 7 tickets then be sold during the entire day?

Agenda Item #3: May people walk in off the street and play just lucky 7 tickets at a bingo hall and “chase” the jackpots, without playing bingo games?

Agenda Item #4: At what time should lucky 7 ticket sales start and finish? (i.e. can ticket sales start one or more hours before the bingo game starts, and how long after the last bingo game may tickets be sold?)

Discussion ensued. Concerns/comments voiced:

- Statutes do not define how many games make up bingo.
- The integrity of the game must be protected.
- Currently, most halls typically play between 15 and 20 individual games when playing bingo.
- Possibly regulating the time frame between games.
- Develop specific language such as “continuous play with a maximum of 5-minute intervals between games”.
- Look at what’s best for the State and the charities.

- Why not allow the sale of lucky 7 tickets with or without bingo? Placing limits on the sale of the lucky 7 tickets impacts charities. (Commissioner Presby noted this will have to be looked at from all angles to make sure it would work for everyone.)
- Making sure house rules are clear and specific would resolve most bingo issues.
- Lucky 7 tickets are not sold after bingo games are over. When to begin the sales?
- Only instant tickets would work in games of chance venues.
- Should the value of lucky 7 tickets be increased from the current 50 cents?

Director Kelley will work up some models pertaining to bingo and lucky 7 and bring them to the next meeting for review and input from attendees. In the meantime, he asked all attendees to email him with any suggestions/ideas/thoughts on what a bingo schedule should look like and when lucky 7 tickets should be sold.

Agenda Item #5: Should volunteers be allowed to get paid to assist in bingo or lucky 7 ticket sales? If so, should there be limits?

Discussion ensued. Concerns/comments voiced:

- Bingo is more complex than people realize. There is a need for professional help in running the games.
- Callers should be compensated. They should be given a separate contract with a flat fee. This cost would be paid by the charities, which would affect their bottom line. The smaller charities would struggle to pay the callers. This item needs more discussion.
- The current \$25 reimbursement rate is archaic. It should be adjusted so volunteers can be rewarded.

Agenda Item #6: Bingo game pattern changes - Item was discussed earlier in the workshop. See above.

Agenda Item #7: Other items and ideas.

Auditor Linda Glaser handed out a list of items needing to be discussed/clarified to obtain consensus.

Discussion ensued on **bonus prize money offered on Winner-Take-All bingo games**. Concerns/comments voiced:

- Some were against bonus prize money altogether.
- Some believed bonus prize money should be allowed but be limited.
- There is now a limit of 4 winner-take-all games. Should this be increased to 5?

Discussion ensued on the **progressive coverall game**.

Concerns/comments voiced:

- This game is run in different ways by different groups and has resulted in some confusion.
- Auditor Glaser asked the attendees to email her the criteria they use to run these games. A meeting will be scheduled to go over these procedures and try to clarify the process and obtain consensus.

Discussion ensued on the **Carryover-Coverall consolation prize**.

Concerns/comments voiced:

- Large prizes produce mayhem.

- How to deal with the jackpot chasers?
- It's a marketing tool which makes possible super bingo.

Discussion ensued on the **free plays**.

Concerns/comments voiced:

- These are submitted for approval and appear on game schedules.
- Auditor Glaser stressed the importance of accounting for all income and expenses. These will need to be verified in an audit. Currently, some operators do not keep detailed records. Documentation needs to be kept to back up the value of free plays awarded to players.
- A meeting will be scheduled with the industry to develop general policies.

Discussion ensued on **surveillance**.

Concerns/comments voiced:

- Some callers have been allowed to use electronic devices while at the podium.
 - No rules currently prohibit this from occurring.
 - Even if nothing illegal is occurring, perception is everything.
 - This matter will be brought to the full Commission at its next meeting in order to address and resolve.
- Another general workshop will be scheduled – time and place to be announced.

The workshop ended at 11:35 a.m. with Commissioner Presby thanking everyone for attending.